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State Dept & DIA review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 10 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM.

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 18 (as of 0630 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

- l. The war enters the fifth day showing no promise of a short decisive campaign for either side. The evening passed quietly on both fronts with Israeli air attacks starting at daybreak. No concurrent ground action has been detected on either front.
- 2. The Egyptians have established their force firmly on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal, forcing an Israeli admission that their ground forces have been unable to push them back. In the Golan Heights, despite heavy fighting, the Israelis have been unable to push the Syrians back beyond the 1967 cease-fire line, and they admit that they have not broken the Syrian army. The ground is still contested, however, and no clear-cut advantage is evident for either side.

EGYPTIAN FRONT

its attacks on Egyptian positions on the west bank of the Canal and on the bridges crossing the Canal. According to Israeli press accounts, there has been little activity along the canal over the evening. The Egyptians continued to resupply their forces over

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the night without opposition from air attack. Despite losses taken during the air attacks of the last few days, the Egyptians evidently are able to keep their bridges in operation and their forces supplied.

4. With yesterday's admission that their ground forces were unable to destroy the Egyptian forces on the eastern bank, the Israelis are counting on their air force to hold the line. For the last two days, the Israelis have concentrated their air attacks along the canal in the face of heavy antidircraft fire--guns and surface-to-air missiles--covering the bridgeheads. The Israelis reportedly lost seven fighters during these attacks. By late yesterday some success may have been achieved in suppressing these defenses,

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- of the canal with their positions extending into the Sinai from depths of 3 to 5 kilometers to perhaps as much as 20 kilometers. An Egyptian incursion yesterday reached the Mitla Pass but, according to the Israelis, was driven off by air attacks. The Israelis claim to have stabilized the lines and to be establishing defensive positions in front of the Egyptian forces. They claim to be building up their forces behind these lines for what Israel acknowledges will be a longer war than initially it expected. The earlier confidence of a short and decisive counter-stroke has faded and the Israelis are facing up to Egyptian forces that are more capable than they had envisaged.
- 6. Although the military situation is still far from settled, some Israeli newspapers are calling for the destruction of Syrian and Egyptian military capability to prevent future Arab attacks. A columnist with Haaretz, an authorative Tel Aviv daily, however, points out the dilemma for Israel if it should carry out such a policy. The columnist argues that a resounding defeat would make it almost impossible for Arab governments to enter into negotiations with

Israel. He said that a military victory could serve as a political instrument if military aims were accompanied by political aims. He notes, however, that the Israeli Government has made it clear that it has no political aims in this war and concludes that the main fruit of the struggle is also likely to be a military victory.

SYRIAN FRONT

- 7. As the fighting entered its fifth day the situation on the Golan Heights remains stable after a quiet night. There are conflicting reports from both Syria and Israel concerning the positions they hold, with both sides claiming to hold the cease-fire line. Syrian forces still retain possession of Qunaytirah despite Israeli attempts to retake it.
- 8. Radio Jerusalem reports that early this morning the IAF began conducting heavy air strikes against Syrian armored forces in the Heights.

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On the ground, fighting this morning seems to be limited to minor skirmishes.

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10. The Syrians have published a list of those injured in yesterday's attack on the Soviet cultural mission in Damascus. No Russian names figure in the list, and Syrian officials refuse to confirm or deny that 30 Soviets were killed in the raid. The wreckage of the building has not been completely cleared, however, and further bodies may be discovered. According to press reports, the Syrian director of the mission was badly injured and a number of Syrian students were

wounded. Other press cables from Damascus report that the oil refineries at Hims were severely damaged by Israeli air strikes and that three Israeli aircraft were lost in the attack.

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JORDAN

13. The German and French missions in Amman have told a US Embassy officer that they see no indications of an imminent Jordanian entry into the war, but they

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confirm that pressures are mounting. The Germans believe arm twisting from Sadat and Asad could turn the tide. The French see increasing agitation from Palestinians in Jordan as the key factor.

SAUDI ARABIA

14. According to a sensitive State Department cable from Amman, Saudi Arabia has advised Jordan that it intends to send a brigade of troops to Syria through Jordanian territory. Jordan intends to comply and a Saudi delegation in Amman is discussing with Jordanian officials the possibility of Jordanian logistical support, including fuel for its troops. The embassy comments that should the Saudis enter the war, the Jordanian could find it difficult to stay out.

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LEBANON

ber of sorties flown over Lebanon with the latest flights made this morning over the central and southern part of the country. Yesterday a Lebanese radar station was reported to have been destroyed by Israeli aircraft. The Lebanese complained to UN observers yesterday that an Israeli force of 40 men and six halftracks had entered Lebanon and searched civilians. The Israelis, probably in search of fedayeen, apparently did not find any and withdrew after four hours. The Israelis have come under rocket attacks from the estimated 5,000 Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon, but thus far no Israeli casualtics have been reported. The fedayeen in general appear to be awaiting developments before committing themselves to the fighting.

given Israel's military strength and the disunity of the fedayeen, they are pessimistic about the usefulness of their forces.

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Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov told Al Ahram editor Haykal a that the Soviets would deliver whatever was necessary to resupply Egyptian forces which, Vinogradov said were deserving because of the way they were fighting.

18. Three Soviet surface combatants are preparing to enter the Bosphorus en route to the Mediterranean; they should arrive sometime today. Two are believed to be missile destroyers, and the third is reported to be a Sverdlov-class cruiser. They probably will join elements of the Soviet Mediterranean Squadron that are now trailing the US Task Force now operating near Cyprus.

OTHER ARAB STATES

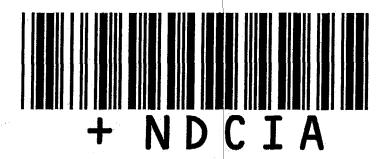
- 19. The mobilization of Algerian military units is continuing. An unknown number of troops and vehicles, including engineer elements, have been transferred to Egypt by AN-12 transports. At least 15 Algerian MIG aircraft have been sent to Uqba bin Nari air base (formerly Wheelus) in Libya. The Algerian Navy is continuing to recall personnel and some naval units reportedly will be deployed to Libyan waters.
- 20. In Abu Dhabi the American Embassy reports it was warned in an Arabic language telephone call that the chancery would be bombed. Local employees were sent home and police protection was expected momentarily.

LATE ITEM

21. Saudi officials are increasingly concerned that they may soon have to take a strong anti-American stand in order to survive politically. The Saudis feel they have no other direction to go and also believe the regime is vulnerable as will be the US if it resupplies Israel with arms.

Document Separator Sheet

Central Intelligence Agency
CIA



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	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 10 October 1973	
.•	INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM	
·	MIDDLE EAST	:
	(Situation Report Number 20) As of 1630 EDT	
	MILITARY SITUATION	
•	GENERAL.	
	1. The situation on the ground appears to be stabilizing on both fronts today with no significant advances made by either the Tsraelis or Arabs. Israeli ground forces, supported by a large number of airstrikes controlled most of the Golan Height's today and are reported to have entered and cleared Qunaytirah. They also made some shallow penetrations across the cease-fire line by noon, Tel Aviv time. Egyptian ground forces are holding the east bank of the canal to a depth of six to ten kilometers and continue to rebuild their bridges and add reinforcements. The Israelis, again with heavy air support, say they are containing the Egyptians; they turned back an armored force driving south into the Sinai from Suez city earlier today. 2. The Syrians launched unsuccessful air attack	,
•	against Israeli positions in the heights this after- noon, losing 19 aircraft. Egyptian air activity remained light. Israeli air attacks continue to be heaviest in the Golan Heights, but a large number of sorties also were directed against the Egyptian forces	
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4	No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/11 : LOC-HAK-544-4-13-9	•
•	on the west bank. Tel Aviv confirmed that Damascus international airport was attacked about noon, Tol Aviv time.	25X1 25X1
	SYRIAN FRONT	20/(1
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•	4. A neutral observer reported at noon that the most significant change since early morning on the Golan Heights was that the Israelis appeared to have entered Qunaytirah and were clearing it. Prime Minister Meir, in a televised broadcast, late today, declared that all of the Golan Heights are completed in Israeli hands and that Syrian troops are in flight	y Y
.,	5. The level of fighting in Syria was high bot in the air and on the ground. The Syrians claim to have shot down at least 25 Israeli aircraft over the	

EGYPTIAN FRONT

6. Fighting continues along the canal, but with little evidence of significant progress by either side. Tel Aviv claims that the Egyptian forces are being held in check all along the canal and that Egyptian penetrations into Sinaí are of a depth of only ten kilometers.

Golan Heights, Latakia, Tartous, and Damascus. At the same time Tol Aviv says 19 Syrian aircraft have been downed. Israeli planes flew about 320 sorties

on 10 October, mainly over the Golan Heights.

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Both sides indicate that the Egyptians are successfully maintaining some bridges scross the canal, despite intensive Israeli air attacks, but the size of the Egyptian reinforcements effort is not known.

7. According to Tel Aviv, an Egyptian armored unit attempted to break out of the bridgehead today, but was forced back. The attacking force struck south from the city of Sucz along the Sinai coast.

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The Egyptians probably are keeping their aircraft in hardened shelters to protect them from Israeli strikes. Cairo's objective may be to hold its air force in reserve until Israel's air arm is weakened by SAM and antiaircraft fire.

9.

ESTIMATED LOSSES

·	Israel	Arabs
Aircraft	105-110	160-165
Tanks	550*	800
Ships (primarily patrol craft)	4 73. 426	9∞10
Personnel	1,200	10,000-14,000

*Israeli report -- includes tanks out of service that cannot be repaired within a week.

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NOTE: Israeli aircraft losses are fairly firm and are based on Israeli admissions. The Arab aircraft losses are based on reported shoot-downs and possible losses as a result of Israeli air strikes on Egyptian and Syrian airfields, as derived from both Israeli claims and Egyptian admissions. The Syrians have made no statements about the number of aircraft lost during the war. It is not possible to ascertain the types of aircraft lost.

The tank figures are estimates based on field reporting. Personnel losses are extremely rough estimates of men killed and captured. While these estimates of losses have not been confirmed, they are consistent with the forces committed to battle and the intensity of fighting on the various fronts.

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to reports of the movements of the US Sixth Flect and to recent articles in the US press suggesting an American take-over of Libyan oilfields. Most of Libya's important oil terminals are located at the port of Sirta.

OIL

- 15. The Arab-Israeli war has not yet resulted in politically-motivated oil cutbacks, but it is already affecting exports from the area. The closure of the oil terminal at Baniyas, Syria and a 50-percent reduction in the Arabian-American Oil Company's Tapline have reduced the flow of oil to Western Europe by about 800,000 barrels per day, equivalent to about five percent of supplies. Additionally, the 350,000 barrels per day from the Trans-Israeli pipeline exported to Western Europe probably will not be available because of Israel's desire to maintain a high level of oil stocks and the reluctance of tankers to enter the area. Alternative supplies from the Persian Gulf states are available, but the current tanker shortage will delay liftings. Italy and other Nediterranean states will be hardest hit by the disruptions.
- 16. For the present, egypt and Syria reportedly are not pressing the producing countries to use thier oil as a weapon. Kuwait!s call yesterday for an emergency meeting of Arab oil ministers was probably a pre-emptive move designed to keep control of the situation in the hands of Arab moderates. So far, the Iraqi nutionalization of Exxon and Mobil has been the only discriminatory move against the US; however, Baghdad has not been pushing its call for a ban on oil exports to the US issued earlier this week.
- 17. If hostilities are prolonged, shutdowns or severe limitations on the Meditorranean pipelines would be felt in the US-perhaps in a matter of several weeks. Should the Arab combatants begin to suffer sharp defeats, pressure on Arab oil producers to use their petroleum muscle in the battle will be intense.

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UNITED NATIONS

18. Although the Security Council members have not yet set a time for their next meeting, it seems likely that the non-aligned states may offer a cease-fire resolution within the next few days. They were eported preparing a draft yesterday and are apparently trying to time its presentation so as to be most favorable to Arab positions.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

19. Reacting to western press reports that offices to process volunteers to help Israel have been established by pro-Israeli organizations in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Great Britain, the Libyan acting forcign minister called in the representatives of these countries in Tripoli and warned them that Libya would consider such activity a hostile act by their countries against the Arab states. An Iranian Government spokesman, reacting to a news service report that volunteers from Australia might go to Israel via Tchran, warned that his country would not be a way station for such people and that Iran would not issue them entry visas.

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XZINNA

Third Country Participation in the Current Middle East Hostilities

As the fighting rages between Israel and Syria and Egypt, various other Arab states have become involved either actively or through pledges of financial and military annistance. A summary of the assistance provided or promised by these states, as well as that by non-Arab states follows.

Arab Assistance

Libya

To date, new Libyan assistance has been limited to pleages to "bankroll" the war. Last spring, Libya sent at least 20 Mirage fighter aircraft to Egypt, which apparently are being flown by Egyptian pilots. Libya has more than 60 additional Mirages in its inventory-although there are not enough Libyan pilots trained to fly them. There are tenuous indications, however, that some of these aircraft may be made available to the Egyptians.

Morocco

At the beginning of the fighting, Morocco had between 2,000 and 3,000 troops, about 60 medium tanks, and some APCs and support equipment stationed in Syria near tanger to a support equipment stationed in Syria near tanger to a support equipment stationed in Syria near tanger to the sights. These troops reportedly have already engaged in combat. Morocco has announced that it will send another 2,500 or so troops to the fighting-possibly to the Egyptian front.

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Since last spring, a squadron of Iraqi Hawker Hunter aircraft—some 16 aircraft—and about 160 Iraqi pilots and technicians have been stationed in Edypt. The Iraqi aircraft have already engaged in aerial combat with the Israelis. Baghdad also has indicated that it will provide 32 SU-7 fighter bombers and 16 MIG-21s to the battle on the Syrian front.

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